

Claim Amendments

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

an elongate band having a length with opposite first and second end edges, opposite top and bottom edges, and opposite first and second surfaces;

a plurality of curved portions in the band between the band first and second end edges, the curved portions of the band positioning a plurality of first and second surface sections opposing each other; and,

the bottom edge of the band having a curved configuration between the first and second end edges of the band, the curved configuration of the band bottom edge being adapted to rest on a convex surface.

3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising:

the top edge of the band between the band first and second end edges being positioned in a single plane.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 4, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

an elongate band having a length with opposite first and second end edges, opposite top and bottom edges, and opposite first and second surfaces;

a plurality of curved portions in the band between the band first and second end edges, the curved portions of the band positioning a plurality of first and second surface sections opposing each other;

the curved portions of the band defining a pathway between the first and second surface sections opposing each other, the pathway extending between the opposing band first and second surface sections and being dimensioned to receive cooking fuel between the opposing band first and second surface sections to direct burning of the cooking fuel along the pathway and thereby sustain the burning of the cooking fuel; and,

the band having an outer peripheral boundary and the pathway overlapping within the band outer peripheral boundary.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

an elongate band having a length with opposite first and second end edges, opposite top and bottom edges, and opposite first and second surfaces;

a plurality of curved portions in the band between the band first and second end edges, the curved portions of the band positioning a plurality of first and second surface sections opposing each other; and,

the band having an outer peripheral boundary that extends around the length of the band and the band outer peripheral boundary being received inside a heat chamber of an outdoor smoker/cooker.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

an elongate band having a length with opposite first and second end edges, opposite top and bottom edges, and opposite first and second surfaces;

a plurality of curved portions in the band between the band first and second end edges, the curved portions of the band positioning a plurality of first and second surface sections opposing each other; and,

at least some of the first and second surface sections having an equivalent curvature.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

an elongate band having a length with opposite first and second end edges,
opposite top and bottom edges, and opposite first and second surfaces;

a plurality of curved portions in the band between the band first and second end
edges, the curved portions of the band positioning a plurality of first and second surface
sections opposing each other; and,

the band being constructed of a consumable material.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus
comprising:

a band having an elongate length with opposite first and second end edges;

a plurality of angled portions in the band between the band first and second end
edges;

a plurality of sections of the band length between the band first and second end
edges, the band sections being separated from each other by the band angled portions,
and at least some of the band sections overlapping each other; and,

the band having opposite top and bottom edges that extend along the length of
the band, and the band bottom edge having a curved configuration between the band
first and second end edges that is adapted to rest on a convex surface.

14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising:

the band top edge between the band first and second end edges being positioned in a single plane.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 15, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

a band having an elongate length with opposite first and second end edges;

a plurality of angled portions in the band between the band first and second end edges;

a plurality of sections of the band length between the band first and second end edges, the band sections being separated from each other by the band angled portions, and at least some of the band sections overlapping each other;

the overlapping band sections defining a pathway between the overlapping band sections that is dimensioned to receive cooking fuel in the pathway between the overlapping band sections to direct burning of the cooking fuel along the pathway and thereby sustain the burning of the cooking fuel; and,

the band having an outer peripheral boundary and the pathway being positioned within the outer peripheral boundary.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

a band having an elongate length with opposite first and second end edges;

a plurality of angled portions in the band between the band first and second end edges;

a plurality of sections of the band length between the band first and second end edges, the band sections being separated from each other by the band angled portions, and at least some of the band sections overlapping each other; and,

the band having an outer peripheral boundary that extends around the length of the band and the ~~ban~~ band outer peripheral boundary being received inside a heat chamber of an outdoor smoker/cooker.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

a band having an elongate length with opposite first and second end edges;

a plurality of angled portions in the band between the band first and second end edges;

a plurality of sections of the band length between the band first and second end edges, the band sections being separated from each other by the band angled portions, and at least some of the band sections overlapping each other; and,

at least some of the overlapping band sections having an equivalent curvature.

22. ~~(Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

a band having an elongate length with opposite first and second end edges;

a plurality of angled portions in the band between the band first and second end edges;

a plurality of sections of the band length between the band first and second end edges, the band sections being separated from each other by the band angled portions, and at least some of the band sections overlapping each other; and,

the band being constructed of a consumable material.

23. (Cancelled).

24. ~~(Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 23, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

a pair of opposing wall surfaces having a spacing between the opposing wall surfaces, the spacing being dimensioned to receive cooking fuel in the spacing, the pair of opposing wall surfaces having elongate lengths that define a pathway in the spacing between the pair of opposing wall surfaces that extends between the lengths of the pair of opposing wall surfaces, the pathway being dimensioned to receive cooking fuel in the pathway and to direct burning of the cooking fuel along the pathway and thereby sustain burning of the cooking fuel; and,

the pair of opposing wall surfaces having a common bottom edge that has a curved configuration that is adapted to rest on a convex surface.

25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24, further comprising:

the pair of opposing wall surfaces having a common top edge that is positioned in a single plane.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 23, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

a pair of opposing wall surfaces having a spacing between the opposing wall surfaces, the spacing being dimensioned to receive cooking fuel in the spacing, the pair

of opposing wall surfaces having elongate lengths that define a pathway in the spacing between the pair of opposing wall surfaces that extends between the lengths of the pair of opposing wall surfaces, the pathway being dimensioned to receive cooking fuel in the pathway and to direct burning of the cooking fuel along the pathway and thereby sustain burning of the cooking fuel; and,

the pair of opposing wall surfaces having an outer peripheral boundary and the pathway being entirely within the outer peripheral boundary.

29. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 28, further comprising:

the pair of opposing wall surfaces outer peripheral boundary being received inside a heat chamber of an outdoor smoker/cooker.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 23, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

a pair of opposing wall surfaces having a spacing between the opposing wall surfaces, the spacing being dimensioned to receive cooking fuel in the spacing, the pair of opposing wall surfaces having elongate lengths that define a pathway in the spacing between the pair of opposing wall surfaces that extends between the lengths of the pair of opposing wall surfaces, the pathway being dimensioned to receive cooking fuel in the

pathway and to direct burning of the cooking fuel along the pathway and thereby sustain burning of the cooking fuel; and,

at least some sections of the pair of opposing wall surfaces having an equivalent curvature.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 23, further comprising:~~

An apparatus to sustain fuel burning for outdoor cooking, the apparatus comprising:

a pair of opposing wall surfaces having a spacing between the opposing wall surfaces, the spacing being dimensioned to receive cooking fuel in the spacing, the pair of opposing wall surfaces having elongate lengths that define a pathway in the spacing between the pair of opposing wall surfaces that extends between the lengths of the pair of opposing wall surfaces, the pathway being dimensioned to receive cooking fuel in the pathway and to direct burning of the cooking fuel along the pathway and thereby sustain burning of the cooking fuel; and,

the band be constructed of a consumable material.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Cancelled).

35. (Cancelled).

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 35, wherein:~~

A method of prolonging charcoal burning in a heat chamber of a charcoal barbecue grill, the method comprising:

providing a divider wall in a form of a loop, the divider wall having opposite interior and exterior surfaces and opposite top and bottom edges extending around the loop;

positioning the divider wall on its bottom edge in the heat chamber of the charcoal barbecue where the divider wall divides an interior volume of the heat chamber into an inner volume inside the interior surface of the divider wall and an outer volume outside the exterior surface of the divider wall and surrounding the inner volume;

arranging charcoal in the outer volume in a path around the divider wall exterior surface from a beginning of the path to an end of the path that is separated from the beginning of the path;

igniting the charcoal in the outer volume at the beginning of the path whereby the charcoal burns over time through the outer volume and around the divider wall exterior surface from the beginning of the charcoal path to the end of the charcoal path;

the heat chamber of the charcoal barbecue grill has at least a bottom structural wall and the step of positioning the divider wall in the heat chamber includes placing the divider wall bottom edge on the bottom structural wall of the heat chamber; and,

the bottom structural wall has a convex surface that supports the divider wall.